Access to Cancer Care For Low-Income and Uninsured Patients in Mitchell County

I want to be checked for cancer. Where do I go?

If you want to be checked for cancer and:
- You live in Mitchell County
- You make a low income
- You do not have health insurance
- You cannot get Medicare or Medicaid

You may be able to get help through one of the programs listed below. Each one may have different rules about how you qualify for services, so call the number listed for more information.

**Mitchell County Indigent Health Care Program**

If you live in Mitchell County you may be able to get help through the Mitchell County Indigent Health Care Program. You will need to fill out a form and show certain documents, such as a water bill, your mortgage or rent papers, or your driver's license to prove that you live in Mitchell County.

You do not have to be a U.S. citizen to get help. But if you have any documents (like visas) from Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), you must show these. You will also need to tell how many family members live in your house. You will have to show how much money you make, so you also may need to show a paycheck stub.

For more information, call the number or go by the office listed below:

**Mitchell County Hospital District**
997 West I-20
Colorado City, 79512
(325) 728-8522, ext 7112

**Cancer Services Network**

Cancer Services Network (CSN) provides financial and emotional support to under-served cancer patients. Programs that CSN includes are:
- Financial help to buy cancer medications or other cancer related needs. Emergency assistance is also given on a case by case basis.
- Any kind of cancer related supplies you may need
- Travel repayment based on how far you go to be treated
- Pain management class

Patients are referred by physicians or social workers, and then CSN caseworkers look at individual and family needs on a case by case basis. Distributions are based on income and family size.

Call the number below to see if you qualify:

Cancer Services Network
100 Chestnut, Ste. 100
Abilene, TX 79602
(325) 672-0040

**For U. S. Military Veterans**

If you are a veteran, you may be able to be seen at a Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic. To find out more about veterans' benefits, go to [http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/). For more information, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at the number below:

Veterans Affairs
Health care questions call 1-877-222-8387

You may also call or visit the following VA facility in or near Mitchell County:

**West Texas VA Health System**
400 Veterans Blvd.
Big Spring, TX 79720
For Women

Women who want to get checked for cervical cancer or breast cancer may be able to get help through a special program called Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS).

- To have a pap test for cervical cancer, you must be 18 to 64 years old.
- To have a mammogram (breast cancer test), you must be 50 to 64 years old.
- You will need to show how much money you make, so you may be asked to show a paycheck stub.

Call one of the clinics below to see about making an appointment:

- **Alliance for Women and Children**
  Alliance for Women and Children provides clinical breast exams, mammograms (breast cancer test) and cervical screening through clinics to women who do not have insurance, Medicare or Medicaid or any other means to pay for her services. Eligibility is based on women who are at 200% below the Federal Poverty guidelines.
  - To have a mammogram or clinical breast exam you must be 18 to 64 years old, not have insurance, Medicare or Medicaid or possibly have a suspicious finding.
  - To have a cervical screening you must be 18 to 64 years old, not had a pap test within the last five years, have never had a pap test or your last test was abnormal.

Call the clinic below for more information or to make an appointment:

- **Alliance for Women and Children**
  1360 N 10th St
  Abilene, TX 79601-4140
  (325) 677-5321

Appointments

When you go for your appointment, be sure to bring any medical records you have. This information will help the doctor understand your needs better. For example, bring:

- Results of past medical or lab tests
- Records of any treatments you have had
- A list of any medicines you are taking right now

I have been told I have cancer. Where do I go?

If you have been told that you need treatment for cancer and:

- You live in Mitchell County
- You make a low income
- You do not have health insurance
- You cannot get Medicare or Medicaid

You may be able to get help through one of the programs listed below. Each one may have different rules about how you qualify for services, so call the number listed for more information.

**Mitchell County Indigent Health Care Program**

If you live in Mitchell County you may be able to get help through the Mitchell County Indigent Health Care Program. You will need to fill out a form and show certain documents, such as a water bill, your mortgage or rent papers, or your driver's license to prove that you live in Mitchell County.

You do not have to be a U.S. citizen to get help. But if you have any documents (like visas) from Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), you must show these. You will also need to tell how many family members live in your house. You will have to show how much money you make, so you also may need to show a paycheck stub.

For more information, call the number or go by the office listed below:

- **Mitchell County Hospital District**
  997 West I-20
  Colorado City, 79512
  (325) 728-8522, ext 7112

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Abilene, TX 79602
(325) 672-0040

For U. S. Military Veterans

If you are a veteran, you may be able to be seen at a Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic. To find out more about veterans’ benefits, go to http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/. For more information, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at the number below:

Veterans Affairs
Health care questions call 1-877-222-8387

You may also call or visit the following VA facility in or near Mitchell County:

West Texas VA Health System
300 Veterans Blvd.
Big Spring, TX 79720
(432)265-7361 or (800)472-1365

Map It

Appointments

When you go for your appointment, be sure to bring any medical records you have. This information will help the doctor understand your needs better. For example, bring:

- Results of past medical or lab tests
- Records of any treatments you have had
- A list of any medicines you are taking right now

What if I still cannot get help for cancer care?

If you cannot get help from the county program or a Federally Qualified Health Center, you may want to call one of the hospitals below.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has named four cancer centers in Texas as leaders in cancer research. Two centers are in Houston, one is in Dallas and one is in San Antonio. These centers focus on finding new treatments for cancer through clinical trial testing. To find out more, visit the Web sites or call the numbers below:

Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
1-800-340-2872
http://www.uthscsa.edu/patient.shtml

The Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine
(713) 798-1354
http://www.bcm.edu/cancercenter/

Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center
(214) 645-HOPE (4673)
(800) 460-HOPE (4673)
http://www.simmonscancercenter.org/index.html

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
1-877-MDA-6789 (1-877-632-6789)
http://www.mdanderson.org/contact_us/

The following hospitals in your area may also treat low-income or uninsured patients. You would need to contact each hospital to find out if you can make an appointment to be seen:

Mitchell County Hospital
(325)728-3431
Where can I learn more about cancer?

There are many groups that help cancer patients. These groups may offer financial assistance, support services or free information about cancer. You can get a list of these groups from the National Cancer Institute by clicking on or typing in the following link:

http://supportorgs.cancer.gov

You may also call the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237).

The American Cancer Society (ACS) also has support groups and information about cancer. You may call 1-800-227-2345 or go to the Web site: http://www.cancer.org/

LIVESTRONG has information about financial assistance and support groups. Call 1-877-236-8820 or visit the Web site:
http://www.livestrong.org

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is a breast cancer helpline. Call 1-877-456-6636 (1-877-GOKOMEN) or visit the Web site:
http://www.komen.org

Visit the Texas Cancer Information (texascancer.info) Web site at http://www.texascancer.info/ for lists of doctors, hospitals, breast and colon cancer screening services and hospices. You can find support, counseling, education and other help such as transportation, housing and medical equipment by clicking on Find Cancer Services.

Print or Download Access to Cancer Care for Low-Income and Uninsured Patients

Click on one of the following links to download or print a PDF of all access to care information for Mitchell County:

> access_mitchell.pdf  (English)
> acceso_espanol_mitchell.pdf  (en español)

Information on Mitchell County last updated on 05/01/2011

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Other information you may find useful:

> General Guidelines for Low-Income or Uninsured Texans Seeking Cancer Care
> Return to Access to Cancer Care by Texas County - Where can I get care?